Survey for new rail lines

271. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of routes where survey has been conducted to lay new rail lines during 1997 and 1998 and the current year, zone-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of routes for which survey work was completed during the above period, zone/State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) by when the construction work is likely to be started and completed, alongwith the estimated expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Judicial enquiry into the Gaisal Rail accident

†272. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a judicial enquiry into the rail accident which took place near Gaisal station on 2nd August last year was announced to be conducted;

(b) whether it is a fact that this judicial enquiry could not be started till January, 2000;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the details of Railway employees who were suspended earlier after preliminary enquiry and were reinstated?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Commission visited accident site and nearby Railway stations and hospitals twice during November, 1999. After examining details collected by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, examination of witnesses has commenced from 16.2.2000.

(d) The following officials who were placed under suspension after preliminary enquiry have been reinstated.

i. Shri Asharfi Mahato, Pointsman/Kishanganj
ii. Shri Indradeo Basfore, Pointsman/Kishanganj
iii. Shri Balkishun Rai, Gateman/Kishanganj
iv. Shri Uma Kant Misra, Porter/Kishanganj
v. Shri Jadu Nandan, Gateman/Kishanganj
vi. Shri Yohanna Marandi, Cabin Man-II/Gaisal
vii. Shri Nagina Prasad, Cabin Man-II/Gaisal
viii. Shri Rabi Roy, Pointsman-B/Gaisal
ix. Shri S. N. Mukherjee, Divisional Railway Manager/Katihar
x. Shri V. R. Lenin, Senior Divisional Operating Manager/ Katihar
xi. Shri H. R. Rao, Divisional Safety Officer/Katihar
xii. Shri S. B. Bhattacharya, Chief Operating Manager/Maligaon
xiii. Shri R. K. Thanga, Chief Safety Officer/Maligaon

Railmotor service between Pathankot and Jogindernagar

273. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to introduce Railmotor service between Pathankot and Jogindernagar to attract tourists for visiting Kullu and Manali in Himachal Pradesh;